



## STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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### PRESS RELEASE

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The Stoughton School District received official word on Monday that our Statement of Interest (SOI) is not on the agenda for a vote at the January Massachusetts School Building Authority board meeting, the last of this funding cycle. 280 SOIs were filed from 121 different school districts and 14 have been invited into the Eligibility Period this fiscal year. Two schools, in Bellingham and Wareham, have had to withdraw their previous invitations by the MSBA due to failure to secure funding in their towns for a Feasibility Study.

The Stoughton School District has the opportunity to reapply to the Massachusetts Building Authority when a new funding cycle opens again in January. The MSBA noted that it was "very significant" that Stoughton Town Meeting had voted funding for the feasibility study. Out of the towns that were invited into the process, the majority were applicants that had previously applied or were schools that had overcrowding issues.

The reasons for renovation/replacement stated in our School District's application are identified facility problems and an accreditation warning based on the state of the facilities, but not overcrowding, which was a factor in acceptances of some school systems into this year's process.

The site visits to our facilities by the MSBA and their consultant were not done until late July and our application could not be considered without this due diligence. Now that the site visits are done they will not have to be repeated for the next cycle giving us more time in the pipeline to be considered.

The need for a new or extensively renovated Stoughton High School and South Elementary School is still very great, and with each year will become greater. It is difficult for the MSBA to sort through the very deserving and needy applications every year to decide which they can fund based on their finite budget. The Stoughton School District will continue to pursue this invitation tirelessly and with renewed vigor for as long as it takes to start the rebuilding process, which our residents and their children so need and deserve.